THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indo-UK Extradition Treaty was ratified on 15 November 1993 and has become effective from that date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

U.S. to lead block of Asia-Pacific Nations

@670. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States to lead a block of 16 Asia Pacific Nations which includes China, South Korea and Taiwan to a new trading block raising the spectre of isolation for India and other South Asian countries in the emerging economic globalisaton;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news report appearing in the Times of India dated 22-11.93 in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government to the issues being raised therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), was establisehd as a loose consultative forum of 12 countries at a Ministerial meeting in Canberra, in 1989. APEC now comprises of 17 countries, namely : Australia, Brunei, Darussalam, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Tipel, Thailand and United States. Chile is to be admitted in 1994, after which APEC has decided on a 3-year moratorium on expansion, while it concentrates on consolidation and improving its effectiveness.

APEC holds annual ministerial meetings and the country which hosts the subsequent meeting is responsible for steering APC activities for the period between the Ministerial meetings. United States had this responsibility for the year preceding the Seattle meeting. The next Ministerial meeting will be in Indonesia.

The Seattle meeting of APEC agreed on a programme of cooperative activities for liberalisation and facilitation of global and regional trade. APEC has rejected the idea of forming a closed "Trading Bloc" and emphasised its commitment to global free trade as also its own open and outward looking orientation based on the concept of "Open Regionalism". It extended strong support for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. APEC has also established procedures to enable non-members from the Asia Pacific region to participate in its work programmes.

With the size and liberalisation of the Indian economy, and its substantial trade and economic linkages with other Asia Pacific countries, India looks forward to an expanding working relationship with APEC. India has expressed its interest in eventual membership of APEC. This would be taken up with APEC members at the appropriate time.

Extradiction of Amanullah

671. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status position of the extradiction proceedings against the Pakistan occupied Kashmir terrorist leader Mr. Amanullah who was arrested in Belgium Capital Brussels recently;

(b) what are the criminal anti-India anticidents of Mr. Amanullah;

@Previously Unstarred Question 340 Transferred from 6-12-93.